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THE INFORMATION OF Capt. Hen. Wilkinson, OF

What hath passed betwixt him and some other Persons, who have attempted to prevail with him to SWEAR

HIGH TREASON

Against the

Earl of Shaftsbury.

LONDON:

Printed for *Henry Wilkinson.* 1681.

2042
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THE PREFACE.

Gentlemen:

I *Have given you account of ſome Paſſages ſince my unexpected retirement to this Place the* Kings-Bench, *where I am under a ſtricter Confinement than any other Perſon, upon what Account, or by what Order, I know not; for want of Conveniency and place of Retirement, I cannot give the Particulars in ſo good Method and Order as the thing requires; if I had received the Priviledge of going abroad, as other Perſons who ſtand, I believe, under worſe circumſtances; I ſhould have made bold firſt to acquaint his Majeſty before I had publiſhed this to the World; but upon inquiry, Why I am thus cloſely confined; I have met with various Reports from the Officers that belong to this Place, to my Fellow-Priſoners, who often bring me in ſtrange Reports, and dreadful News; that is, That I am ſure to be hang'd for things I have deſigned againſt the Government. By ſome it's reported, I am that Perſon that was intended to Murder his Majeſty. To vin-*

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dicate my ſelf and my Innocency, I am forc'd to publiſh this, and to let the World know, That, I bleſs God, I am not in the leaſt afraid of what can befall me. I do by this, bid defiance to all mankind, to charge me with any Diſloyalty againſt my King and Country; if I periſh, it ſhall be for ſpeaking and declaring Truth; which the World may judge, is without Expectation of Reward or Applauſe. I only deſire to live and dye an Honeſt Engliſh-man; *and to leave my ſelf, and Family without Diſgrace. I am reſolv'd never to procure my inlargement or an Eſtate to entail A Curſe upon my Family; I am not ſo much in love with the World, or an Eſtate, as ſome others, that deſire to have an Eſtate upon any Account; beſides I have ſpent the prime of my days, and cannot expect long to injoy it.*

HENRY WILKINSON.

TO THE READER.

I Having had (in the late unhappy Civil War) the honour of ſerving his late Majeſty of bleſſed Memory, and his moſt Glorious Majeſty King *Charles* the Second, in a good Capacity under ſeveral Qualifications in *England* and elſewhere, in which I acquitted my ſelf as a Gentleman and Loyal Subject: yet (with many others in the ſame ſervice) had the misfortune to be much impoveriſhed and impriſoned in *England* and beyond Sea.

That when the good providence of God had reſtored his preſent Majeſty to his Crowns and Government, I was to my utmoſt inſtrumental, as became my duty ſo to do; and alſo did riſe with the Gentry of *York-ſhire*, who ſecured *York* when Major-general *Lambert*'s Army fac'd and put a ſtop to the Army of General *Monk*: the force we then made with our ſelves and Servants, and the ſecuring of *York*, was the cauſe of breaking and diſapating the Army of Major-general *Lambert*; which gave a good opportunity for General *Monk* to march.

That ſeeing how difficult, and how almoſt impoſſible it was for his Majeſty to gratifie all ſuch who were then in expectation of, or wanted his Royal Bounty; I rather choſe to betake my ſelf to ſuch juſt and honourable means, for ſupport of my ſelf and Family, as did occur to me, than to depend upon, or apply my ſelf unto the Court for an Employment. And did thereupon engage in, and enter upon ſeveral Affairs and Managements of good and rational Proſpects: But ſuch was my misfortune, or elſe of thoſe I was concern'd with, as that all proved not onely unſucceſsful, but oft, to my great loſs. I have alſo ſpent above a thouſand pounds at Court in aſſiſting Mr. *Caſtillian Morris*, Son to Col. *John Morris* who was Governour of *Pontefract*-Caſtle, who was

hang'd, drawn, and quarter'd for his Loyalty; in which Garison I was, and after with his Majesty beyond Sea.

That I having for above twenty years thus spent my time and pains in fruitless Endeavours, I left the County of *York*, my usual Residence and place of Birth, and with my Family came to *London*.

At length having intimation that considerable Encouragements would be given to such as would transport themselves and Families to *Carolina*, I took a resolution so to do, with what small Fortune I had left, resolving to bid adieu to my own unkind Country.

That in pursuance of these Resolutions, I waited on the Lords Proprietors to receive from them personally the state of the said Country, and the particular Encouragements to be given; of all which I received a full and satisfactory account. And having the honour to be well known with my service and sufferings unto the Right Honourable the Earl of *Craven* then present, his Lordship was pleased to say, He was satisfied of my Honesty and Integrity; and for my better encouragement, freely offered me to go thither in quality of their Governour over the North-part of the said Country: which unexpected Favour I kindly accepted; and some time after had a Patent constituting me such; as also one other for one of my Sons to be Surveyor-general of the same; also for my youngest Son to be Register.

That during the negotiating this Affair, I had frequent occasion to wait upon and become acquainted with the Lords Proprietors, and amongst the rest with the Right Honourable the Earl of *Shaftsbury*, from whom I had always a very kind Reception; but never had with his Lordship any other Discourse than was occasional in relation to my intended Voyage.

To which having thus engaged my self, I made all the necessary Preparations; and in the month of *April* last, hired the Ship *Abigail* of *Colchester*, burthen One hundred and thirty Tuns or thereabouts, whereof was Master *Thomas Wood*; which Ship I Victualled for the said Master, ten Men, and also for all such Passengers as should be taken on board.

And

To the READER.

And put on board all my Houſhold-goods, and ſuch other Neceſſaries as was proper, as alſo my Wife, Daughter, and three Sons, (two of which had the honour to ſerve his Majeſty, one being a Commiſſion-Officer ſome years at Sea) together with above thirty Servants, women and men, the men of all ſorts of different Mechanick uſeful Trades, with their neceſſary Utenſils; as alſo ſeveral perſons, and ſome Families, who had contracted with me for themſelves and their Goods paſſage and fraight, who were on board; and ſeveral others promiſed to ſhip themſelves and Goods, but did not.

Amongſt which, was one Mr. *Booth*, whom I had known above twenty years in the North of *England*, and to be a perſon of good Learning, and very ingenious, but under the Character of a very ill Reputation: This Gentleman and his Family, then reſiding in *Salisbury-court*, hearing of my intended Voyage, applied himſelf unto me, and with great proteſtations declared, that for the future he would reform his Life and Converſation both towards God and towards Man, and would ſhip himſelf and Family, with what number of Servants he could: Which Propoſals being early, did encourage me to hire the ſaid Ship ſooner than otherwiſe I intended, he promiſing to put on board to the number of fixteen perſons of his own Family.

By which means, and others failure, together with ſome difficulties which I met with, the ſaid Ship lay in the River ſo long, with ſuch Servants and Paſſengers aboard her, at my ſole charge, as forced me to contract more Debts than I expected: Alſo I was in great trouble, and was much detain'd by reaſon of ſome Debts I was bound for, and fell upon me. And intending juſt and full ſatisfaction to all men, and to ſupply my ſelf with all things neceſſary in order thereto, was the occaſion of my having the ſaid Ship ſo long upon charges, *viz.* from the month of *April* until *Auguſt* following; at which time, having gone through moſt of the difficulties I ſtruggled under, I reſolved to ſail in three or four days.

But a Gentleman who was one of the Freightors, and a Paſſenger, looking upon himſelf injur'd by the long demurrage of the Ship, arreſted me; and next day after, ſeveral o-

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thers did the like; which threw me into the Compter in *Woodſtreet*, where I made fair and reaſonable offers of ſatisfaction; but through the ſtubbornneſs of the perſons concern'd, the ſaid Propoſals proved ineffectual.

Upon which, my Servants on board, though in Covenant, and long maintain'd at my Charge, went from the ſaid Ship, as did alſo the Paſſengers with their perſons and Goods, to my exceeding great loſs; beſides that of my Place and Paſſage, and beſides the loſs of all my own Goods and Eſtate.

That being under theſe unhappy complicated Misfortunes, I removed my ſelf by *Habeas Corpus* to the Priſon of the *Kings-bench*, on or about the 17th day of *September* laſt.

HENRY WILKINSON.

THE INFORMATION OF Capt. *HENRY WILKINSON*, &c.

IMPRIMIS, I the ſaid *Henry Wilkinſon* do declare, and am ready to ſwear, That on Saturday *October* the 8th. 1681. about five a Clock in the Evening, one Mr. *Walter Bains* came to Mr. *Adams* Celler in the Kings-Bench Priſon, and ſent for me out of the Garden in the Kings-Bench; who upon ſight, told me he was ſorry to ſee me in that place; afterwards engaged me to accept of a Pot of Beer or Ale; in the time of its drinking, Mr. *Baines* ſhewed and expreſſed the greateſt Kindneſs that could be expected from a Brother, which made me believe he had ſome deſign; then he deſired to know what ſort of Wine I would drink, I told him not any; beſides the Celler had none, but he called then for Brandy, which we had; then he told me Mr. *Brownrig* was ſent Priſoner to *York Caſtle* for Treaſon, and for appearing for my Lord *Shaftsbury*; and alſo the ſaid *Baines* ſaid, he had ſent a Note to my Lord *Shaftsbury* to demand fifty ſhillings for Service and Charges that was due to him, done for the Lord *Shaftsbury* at my requeſt, as he pretends; and that my Lord ſent him word, it was a Sham and a Cheat put upon him, therefore would pay him no ſuch Bill.

At the ſame time he told me, I could not but know much of the Lord *Shaftsburys* Deſigns againſt the King; and that I might do well to diſcover it to him, who was ready to do me any Kindneſs; and deſired an opportunity. Alſo, that he had been lately with Mr. *Graham*. And that he had a great Intereſt with my Lord *Hyde* (all this time I underſtood what was deſigning for my Kindneſs). I conſtantly and truly told him, I knew nothing of my Lord *Shaftsburys* Deſigns againſt his Majeſty; only this I did know formerly from Mr. *Baines* about three Months ago, That he was then of an Opinion, that Mr. *Brownrig* could diſcover ſome unlawful

Practices against the Lord *Shaftsbury*, which I confeſs, I did wiſh might be diſcovered; for although I have ſerved his Majeſty in *England*, and beyond Sea (and no other Intereſt) and as inſtrumental in his Majeſties Reſtauration as any perſon of my fortune could be; ſo I am for his continuance by all lawful means, and never to ſtudy the Deſtruction of his Friends or Enemies by unjuſt Deſigns. I have cauſe to believe my Lord *Shaftsbury* loves his Majeſty, for he always was pleaſed to ſhew me reſpect, for that I had ſerved his Majeſty.

Now Night drew on for Mr. *Baines* to be gone; all the time he ſtayed, was ſpent with a great deal of Zeal upon me on the ſame Subject; he told me I ſhould have a Pardon, and need not to fear it; I would not deny his profer. But he further told me, I ſhould be conſiderably rewarded; neither did I deny that, but told him, when I was requited for my former ſervice, I would ſerve his Majeſty in what I could; I ſee here was a Deſign laid, although I had reaſon to take it unkindly to have any thing fixt upon me, or to make me an Inſtrument beyond my Knowledge, yet I was reſolved to humour the buſineſs. Upon which Mr. *Bains* took his leave this night, and told me at parting, he would in a few days ſee me again, but left me with ſuch promiſes as at preſent I cannot expreſs, not much queſtioning my Knowledge.

Item, that on Tueſday *October* the 11th. 1681. I was ſent for to Mr. *Weavers* houſe near the Kings-Bench, to Mr. *Booth*, who told me he was glad to ſee me, but ſorry to ſee us both in that Condition, for he was a Priſoner as I was; he told me he had removed himſelf laſt nighr from one of the Compters; I required of him how he came to be at a Waiters houſe; he told me it was not denyed him, although I could not be admitted one night. I underſtood he was engaged in the Deſign; I conſidered he had been a man of bad Principles, therefore was reſolved to ſtand upon my guard. Preſently he told me, he was to tell me, I had an opportunity to be a better man in my fortune than ever I was before, and that now I had an opportunity to make my Fortune: And that I might have five Hundred Pounds *per Annum* ſetled upon me and my Heirs, or Ten Thouſand Pounds in money, which I pleaſed, if I would diſcover what I knew of my Lord *Shaftsbury* and his Deſign in changing the Goverment to a Commonwealth, and witneſs againſt him; I replied and told him, no body would believe I ſhould be made privy to ſuch a Deſign, (if ſuch a thing was) being I had ſerved his Majeſty in *England* and beyond Sea; he anſwered, I was the likelieſt man to know, for he knew I had ſerved the King, and had been ſlighted and neglected. I told him that was true. I anſwered him again, I never deſired any thing of his Majeſty for my Service, but that which would coſt him nothing; but only have the preference of others,

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that never had been concerned in his Majeſties ſervice, by way of farm on part of his Majeſties Revenues: He told me his Majeſty knew me, and that he was ſenſible of my Service and Sufferings, and deſired to gratifie me; for he often told me, now was the time to do ſomthing which would advance me; for it muſt now be a King, or a Commonwealth: for the Earl of *Shaftsbury*'s Party would but only make uſe of me, to ſlight me when their buſineſs was done: I told him, I was with my Lord *Shaftsbury* the night before he was apprehended, and that Sir *Thomas Armſtrong* was there, a perſon I knew out of favour, on purpoſe that he might ſpeak out his full mind; but ſtill told him, I knew nothing of any Deſign: I alſo told him, I would ſay nothing, nor appear at Court, until I was conſidered for my Sufferings, (a thing I never expected) and as for going to Court, I never intended it: but the more I told him I knew nothing of a Deſign, the more he put me in mind of what Reward I might have, in ſuch words that I ought to Swear it, Whether I knew any thing or nothing of the buſineſs. Now I fully ſaw the Deſign; and although I ſtaid late, at my return *I* began to conſider who *I* ſhould make this buſineſs and deſign known to, being a ſtranger in the *Kings-Bench*, I obſerved one who appeared to me to be a ſober and ſenſible perſon, that night I repaired to him, and (leſt I ſhould be tempted with what offers were made) I told him, that *I* had a deſign to commit a Secret to him; whereupon *I* told him, and deſired him to put the ſame in Writing, and that if *I* ever declared more than what *I* did then to him, (that was) That *I* knew nothing of any Plot or Deſign againſt his Majeſty, intended by my Lord *Shaftsbury*; *I* told him this, and declared it in the preſence of God; and if ever *I* ſhould be tempted to Swear more than this at any time, it was for Reward; and that *I* deſired him to witneſs the truth of this againſt me, and that *I* would daily give him an account of what paſſed for the future, which *I* deſired him every day to put into Writing; which *I* believe he hath done, as alſo the conſtant invitations abroad and the Viſits they gave me here, which were ſo frequent to me, as nothing could be more.

Mr. *Booth* told me, I muſt appear at Court, and I ſhould have an aſſurance of my reward from ſome perſons of Honour: I told him, I would not truſt any Courtier I knew, for a Groat; I am ſatisfied he was put upon this, but by whom God knows, I am aſſured not by his Majeſty.

That on Wedneſday *Octob.* the 12th, 1681. I was invited by Mr. *Booth* to dine with him that day at Mr. *Weaver*'s houſe, which I refuſed, (although he ſent a Waiter, and promiſed him ſatisfaction for his attendance.) After Dinner he ſent again; I went, and found Mr. *Baines* with him, both riſing from Dinner; I was moſt kindly received with Wine and good words, working upon me to come in a Witneſs againſt my Lord *Shaftsbury*'s deſigning to change the Government; declaring I had an opportunity to make my Family and Friends, as they had expreſt formerly. I told them, as I had done be-

before, Until I was ſatisfied for by-paſt Services, I would not be concerned any way at Court. They told me, I might be aſſured of what I would deſire from my Lord *Halliſax* and my Lord *Hyde*. Mr. *Booth* required what would ſatisfie me: I told him, If they would give me two thouſand Guineys towards the injury I had received, and my friends upon my account, I would diſcover what I knew. Mr. *Booth* told me, A greater thing was intended me, for I was intended five Hundred Pounds *per Annum*, or ten thouſand Pounds in money: But I ſtill told them, I knew nothing of any Deſign by my Lord *Shaftsbury*. The more I declared I knew nothing, the more Mr. *Booth* urged the Reward. I told him (when he was ſo earneſt) when I had that Money, and a General Pardon, I would then do any ſervice I could; but I would not truſt the promiſes of Courtiers. Mr. *Baines* told me, As to a Pardon, I might have it in two or three days; He deſired to know my Chriſtian name, which I conceived was with an intention to get a Pardon, a thing never in my thoughts; but Mr. *Baines* formerly mentioned it to me; and truly I did not know what I might ſtand in need of, or what they would fix upon me in our diſcourſe.

Mr. *Baines* told me, he had the night before been with my Lord *Halliſax* and Lord *Hyde*; now they thought they had prevailed with me, and were mighty chearful: Before I parted from them, my wife coming to me, told me, Mr. *Booth* had been mighty urgent with her, to engage me to come in a Witneſs; and then told her, I ſhould have five hundred Pounds *per Annum* ſettled upon me; but what grounds he had for this, I know not; for all perſons that know her, know her to be a perſon of unqueſtionable repute. Nor did I queſtion the performance, for I thought what I could ſay, would not deſerve it; neither could I tell, why they ſhould think me ſuch a man, as they would have me to be; for I ever hated to be a Witneſs or a Jury-man all my time: I conceive Mr. *Booth* thought I might be wrought upon, becauſe I had great misfortunes, and that this was a ready way to repair me.

Octob. the 13. 1681. This day I had a Waiter ſent me, about eleven a Clock, to deſire me to go to Mr. *Weaver's* houſe, which I did; there was Mr. *Booth* and Mr. *Baines*, who told me, they ſent for me to dine with them: I had no deſire to have any Table-talk with them, I deſired to be excuſed, and alſo promiſed to ſee them after Dinner. Mr. *Bains* told me, Mr. *Graham* was not far off, and would be there, and that he was ſent by ſome of the Council to diſcourſe me: Mr. *Baines* told me, on *Tueſday* night he was at Court with my Lord *Halliſax*, and Lord *Hyde*, and the two Secretaries of State, and that they enquired who knew me: He replied, Mr. *Graham*, who was ſent for; they askt him as to my Reputation: they askt him if he knew me, and how long; he ſaid, about twenty years: they enquired of him concerning me. He told me Mr. *Graham* anſwered, I had ſerved his Majeſty and his Father in *England* and beyond Sea faithfully, and that I was a very honeſt man, and alſo that I was a

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great Sufferer, and that I had received great Diſappointments, and had been ill dealt with by ſome that belonged to the Court, as, in particular, Mr. *Edward Progers*; and that they engaged Mr. *Graham* to come over to the *Kings-Bench*, and to aſſure me, that I ſhould be requited for my Sufferings: Alſo to take me over with him to the King, where I ſhould have the Promiſe of His Majeſty for the ſame, and the opportunity to declare my former Grievances, and receive His Royal Word and Promiſe for my Reward and Sufferings. After this Diſcourſe Mr. *Graham* came in, who told me the ſame things as above, and that I might be aſſured of thoſe things from the King; alſo that he had an Order to carry me to His Majeſty. I told him, I could ſay nothing, neither would I go to *Whitehall*; for I had taken a Reſolution againſt going to *Whitehall*. It was hard preſſed for my going thither. I deſired to be excuſed; for if I could ſay any thing, I muſt be guilty my ſelf: But he told me, Whether I was, or not, I might be recompenced for my Sufferings: Upon which I took my leave, and went away not well pleaſed, that for my requital I ſhould be thought an Ill Man, or a Traytor.

That on *October* the Fourteenth, 1681. Mr. *Booth* came to me about Eleven a Clock, to the *Kings-Bench*. We walk'd in the Garden about an Hour. His Buſineſs was, to know my mind, whether I would go voluntarily to the King, or not. He alſo told me, That Mr. *Wilſon*, my Lord *Shaftsbury*'s Secretary, that was in the *Gatehouſe*, had ſent to the Council to imform Them, That if he might have His Pardon, he would come in, and declare his Knowledge; and therefore he would have me to have the Honour to be the Firſt Diſcoverer. I told him, I had no Buſineſs at *Whitehall*. Then he told me, it was intended that Mr. *Graham* ſhould be at his Lodging this Afternoon, to ſee if I would go the King; if not, my Lord Chief Juſtice Warrant would be ſent to compel me to appear at his Chamber, where there would be ſome of the Council to examine me and ſwear me. He alſo told me, That the Duke of *York* had a great Eſtate in *Ireland*, and that he would give me Five hundred Pounds *per Annum* there, beſides all former Promiſes, to be ſetled upon

me and my Heirs, if I would come in a Witneſs againſt my Lord *Shaftsbury*. I told him they might meet with many Perſons in this Age, that would accept of ſuch Offers. I told him, if I had any thing to ſay, it was the moſt proper time in Court, for me and Witneſſes to ſpeak their Knowledge. I told him, I did not know but the preſence of a King, and his Promiſes, might make a Man ſay more than what was true, or than he could ſay fairly in a Court. Mr. *Booth* ask'd me, if I did not ride with my Sword and Piſtols out of Town with my Lord *Shaftsbury*, when he went to *Oxford*? I told him I did; I could not do leſs than wait upon him out of Town, who had been ſo kind, with the reſt of the Lords Proprietors, to do me the Honour to make me their Governour for the Country of *Carolina*. He then told me, I muſt needs be privy to this, That if His Majeſty would not paſs Three Acts, One, for Excluding the Duke of *York*; the next, for making void the Act of Queen *Elizabeth* againſt Recuſancy; and the third, for Uniting Proteſtant Subjects; then by force of Arms he was to be compelled. He told me, all the Council was ſatisfied I knew this, and as much as any Perſon, in regard that both my Lord *Shaftsbury* and my ſelf was diſguſted at Court. He ſaid, the Council knew I was a Soldier, and was ſatisfied I was to act in that Concern. I begun now to conſider what a Fortune was now promis'd, and what a good Addition this Five hundred Pounds Additional from the Duke of *York* would make to the former Promiſes: and after he was gone, I acquainted my Wife, and told her how great a Perſon ſhe was like to be: But this was no News to her; for Mr. *Booth* had often been diſiering her, for her own good, to engage me in this Honourable Service. Thus theſe things in our Troubles ſerved us to be merry with, to conſider how eaſily we were like to leap into an Eſtate: But all this time we was not without fear and danger of enjoying it, or any part of it, much leſs of Intailing it upon our Poſterity.

October the Fifteenth, 1681. This day, about Eleven a Clock, Mr. *Booth* came again to me to the *Kings-Bench*, to know of me if I yet would go to *Whitehall*: I demanded, For what? He told me, To Evidence againſt the Earl of *Shaftsbury*. I told him, I had nothing

thing to ſay againſt him. He importuned me not to loſe this great Opportunity I now had. Before we parted, Mr. *Baines* came to us; I deſired to know why they ſhould be ſo urgent to have me a Witneſs. He told me, there were none but *Iriſh* Witneſſes yet to come againſt my Lord *Shaftsbury*, and they were not Perſons of Credit; but if I would come in, although I had been unfortunate in my Private Concerns, yet I was not blemiſh'd in my Credit. Mr. *Baines* told me, if I would not go to *Whitehall*, the Marſhal had a *Habeas Corpus* from my Lord Chief Juſtice *Pemberton*, to carry me. So we parted.

About Four a Clock in the Afternoon, the Marſhal came with Mr. *Booth* and Mr. *Baines*, to require me to go along with him. I demanded, Whither? He told me to *Whitehall*. I demanded to ſee his Warrant. He ſhewed it me. Now I was forced to obey. After my coming thither, in a little time I was called into Mr. Secretary *Jenkins*'s Office, where he and my Lord *Conway* was, who ſtrictly, but very fairly and honeſtly, Examined me about my Lord *Shaftsbury*, and what I knew of any Deſign againſt His Majeſty. I told them, as I did to the former Attackers, I knew nothing. Great Arguments were uſed; but I could give no ſatisfactory Anſwer, as was (I conceived) expected. After this His Majeſty came into the Office: When He ſaw me, He was pleaſed to do me the Honour to ſay, He knew me well, and that I had ſerved His Father and His Majeſty faithfully, and He hoped I would not decline my Obedience. To which I anſwered, I never deſerved to be ſuſpected. His Majeſty was pleaſed to tell me, He had not had the Opportunity to ſerve His Friends, but hoped He might: He was pleaſed to promiſe to conſider me for my Sufferings. Then His Majeſty began to Examine me, (If I had been exhorted by the beſt Divine in *England*, he could not have ſaid more than His Majeſty) in telling me, what Kindneſs was intended me, was not with a deſign to invite me to ſpeak a Word but Truth it ſelf; and that if He knew I did, or any other Perſon, His Majeſty would never endure them. Then His Majeſty demanded, What I knew of a Deſign againſt His Perſon and Government?

I truly told His Majesty, That I knew nothing of any Plot or Design against His Majesty or Government; That I admired why I should be suspected, that had served His Majesty and His Father in *England* and beyond-Sea, and was as Instrumental as any Person in His Majesties Restoration: But some Persons had possessed His Majesty, I was deep in some Design against the Government, and knew much of my Lord *Shaftsbury*: So His Majesty seemed not to be satisfied, but still pressed hard upon me. To all His Majesties Questions, I could give no Answer that would satisfie. Then His Majesty was pleased to tell me, If I would say, *As I hope to be saved, I knew nothing of any Design against His Person*, He would believe me; which I did say, in those very Words: which His Majesty seemed to wonder at. Then I was left to Mr. Secretary *Jenkins*, who was pleased to use such Arguments as he thought fit. I told him, I knew my Duty to His Majesty, I would not draw a Sword against Him; but I could freely do it against some of the Court, that were Enemies to His Majesty and His Friends; and so I was dismiss'd out of the Office. Then I was carried into another Room, where His Majesty, my Lord Chancellor, Lord *Hallifax*, Lord *Hyde*, the two Secretaries of State was, and the Lord Chief-Justice *Pemberton*: where I was Examined, Mr. *Graham*, Mr. *Booth*, and Mr. *Baines* present. My Lord Chancellor was sharp upon me with several Questions, which I could give no Answer to. Content thus I was to run the Gantlet from one Place to another. My Lord Chancellor would not believe but I must be guilty of knowing great things against my Lord *Shaftsbury*. I told him, If I could not be believed upon my Word there, if they pleased to bring my Lord *Shaftsbury* upon his Trial, I would declare it in open Court upon Oath what my Knowledge was, without any hopes of Gain or Advancement. My Lord Chancellor, I thank him, he did me that Equity, to tell me, There were Two sorts of Advancement; I need not give my self that trouble, for I was like to come to my Trial my self before my Lord *Shaftsbury*. My Lord Chancellor demanded of me, If I had no Commission for this New Service against His Majesty. I told him, No. Then he told me, I was to have

a Troop to consist of Fifty men. I told him that was a small Troop, I hoped, that if ever I had a Command of a Troop, it should be a better than that; but I desired to know who gave that Information, he told me Mr. *Booth*, who was (by, and was) lifted under me: I desired Mr. *Booth* to tell me if he had given this Information, and made this Oath? He told me yes, and it was true. I was unconcerned, and am, knowing my self not guilty: for I protest, in the presence of Almighty God, by whom I expect to be judged, I never had a word with Mr. *Booth*, or any other person, in my whole life, tending to any such thing: For at the same time that he said this was to be, which was when the Parliament was to be last at *Oxford*, I had taken on a Ship for *Carrolina*, where I was to go Governour, a business more to my content than auy Millitary employ, especially against His Majesty and the Government: But I conceived this was in hopes of reward, and to shew his Loyalty; for which, I believe, he will neither be regarded nor rewarded. I told the Council, if they had such another Witness, they might do my business. I thank God I am not affraid of him, nor Twenty more such Witnesses, if they come against me; for 'tis well known, he hath been accused and condemned for Clipping and Coyning, besides Murder; for which he had His Majesties Gracious Pardon, as I have been informed. I am glad I live in such days, wherein Juries conceive they are Judges as to matter of Fact; for if they were not, I am satisfied in this Swearing Age, many an honest man would be forc'd to March before they know either Rank or File. At the same time I told my Lord Chancellor, if any honest man would come and witness against me, I would never desire His Majesties Pardon, or ever will. Let all the world judge how unlikely it is, that I should be thus concerned, when I had about Twenty eight Men Servants, Four or Five Women Servants, besides my Wife, Three Sons, (of which, Two had been in His Majesties Service at Sea) and one Daughter, all the Children I have, prepared, and lay at my Charge, intending for *Carrolina*, and thought my self happy, and was resolved to leave *England*, with resolution, to see if I could find a people that had less Wit and more Honesty than I have found in my own Countrey, where I must needs say, I have found very unfaithful dealings amongst such as account themselves persons of Honour and Quality: But truly, when I thought I had made my self almost ready for my intended Voyage, I found my self like a man bewitched, that could neither budge nor stir, until at last some Debts that I was bound for fell upon me, and others of my own increased, being burthened with a great Charge, which unexpectedly put a stop, at present, to my intended Voyage. I did always intend to leave *England* Honestly and Honourably: Those things fell so unexpectedly, that my self and Wife concluded there was a Divine hand in it.

The Information of Jarvis James, *Gent.*

I *Jarvis James*, Gent, do declare, that the above-named Captain *Henry Wilkinſon* came to me upon *Tueſday* the Eleventh of *October*. 1681. in the Evening, and did then, and likewiſe every day from time to time afterwards, make me acquainted with the ſeveral Treaties and Tranſactions between him the ſaid Captain *Henry Wilkinſon*, and Mr. *Baines*, Mr. *Booth* and Mr. *Graham*, and the ſeveral other perſons in this his Information mentioned, and that they were the very ſame in ſubſtance, with what he hath herein ſet forth and declared; for at his requeſt, and my own ſatisfaction, I kept a dayly Journal during the time of their treating. All which ſhall be atteſted upon Oath when required.

The Information of Mrs. Suſannah Wilkinſon, *Wife of* Henry Wilkinſon.

I The ſaid *Suſannah Wilkinſon* do declare, that on *Wedneſday* the Twelfth of *October*, 1681. I went to the *Kings-Bench* Priſon to ſpeak with my Husband (where I met with three Carpenters which were entertained by him as Servants for *Carrolina*, and who had waited a long time, and not finding him likely to proceed in his Voyage they deſired to be diſcharged) but not finding him in the *Kings-Bench*, I went with them to Mr. *Weavers* Houſe, where I found him in Company with Mr. *Booth* and one Mr. *Baines*, (who were very largely treating my Husband with Wine) my Husband went out to the

the Servants and diſcourſed them; then Mr. *Booth* took an opportunity to ſpeak to me, and told me, my Huſband was a moſt obſtinate Man, and Mr. *Booth* deſired me to perſwade my Husband to be guided and perſwaded by him the ſaid Mr. *Booth*, and he ſaid, the King would do more for my Husband, than ever the Lord *Shaftsbury* would; and that the King was ſenſible of my Husband's Service and Sufferings; and if my Husband would be perſwaded by him, the ſaid Mr. *Booth*, to appear againſt the Lord *Shaftsbury*, he was ſure my Husband would be the moſt happy man in the world; and that he ſhould have Five hundred pounds a year ſetled upon him and his Heirs for ever.

That on *Friday*, *October* the Fourteenth, 1681. I was with my Husband at the *Kings-Bench* Priſon, when Mr. *Booth* came into our Room. Mr. *Booth* took an opportunity to ſpeak with me, and deſired me, for God's ſake, to perſwade my Husband to be ruled by him; which if my Husband would, he might be a happy man, and the Duke of *York* would ſettle Five hundred pound a year in *Ireland* upon my Husband and his Heirs; and very much intreated me to perſwade my Husband to what he deſired. All which ſhall be atteſted upon Oath when required.

FINIS.